

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/552,981

Applicant(s)

RIGGS, BRETT D.

Examiner

Andrew Graham

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15, 18-23 renumbered as 1-15 and 16-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 11/24/03.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |



Andrew Graham  
571-272-7517

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**DETAILED ACTION**

**Examiner's Amendment**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Trenholm on September 15, 2005.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, 15, 19-21, and 23 have been amended as follows:

**Claim 1** has been amended to read as follows:

1. A voice control interface device adapted to be installed in a vehicle as an aftermarket product hardwire connected to at least one or more local stereo control buttons that receives at least one voice command and at least one command from one or more local stereo control buttons positioned within the vehicle in a first format and produces at least one wireless output signal to a replacement aftermarket stereo receiving lacking voice command capability and installed in the vehicle to replace an originally installed stereo receiver so that either of the at least one voice command or the local stereo control button command can be used to control the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver, and

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wherein the one or more local stereo control buttons were originally installed in the vehicle to control the originally installed stereo receiver that was responsive to signals in the first format.

**Claim 2** has been amended to read as follows:

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the voice control interface device outputs at least one wireless signal to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver corresponding to the at least one voice command or the local stereo control button command.

**Claim 3** has been amended to read as follows:

3. The device of Claim 2, wherein the voice control interface device receives a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver and wherein the voice control interface produces a signal corresponding to the first wireless signal in response to a user speaking a first voice command or input of the one or more local stereo control button commands.

**Claim 4** has been amended to read as follows:

4. The device of Claim 3, wherein the voice control interface device includes a memory and is programmable so as to store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one voice command and local

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stereo control button command such that subsequent speaking of the at least one voice command or input of the one or more local stereo control button commands results in the corresponding wireless signal being sent to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

**Claim 6** has been amended to read as follows:

6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the voice control interface device includes a wireless receiver and a wireless transmitter so that the voice control interface device can receive the first wireless signal from the handheld remote control and store a corresponding signal in the memory such that the voice control interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal so as to change the first function of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

**Claim 8** has been amended to read as follows:

8. A stereo system for a vehicle comprising:

one or more local stereo control buttons originally mounted in a first location on the vehicle that is adapted to send local control signals in a first format to an original stereo receiver to control the operation of an original stereo receiver,

a replacement aftermarket stereo receiver lacking voice control capability and adapted to replace the original stereo receiver, wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is mounted in a first location on the vehicle and wherein the replacement aftermarket

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stereo receiver is adapted to receive wireless remote control signals to control the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver; and

an aftermarket interface device that is adapted to be positioned within the vehicle connected to the one or more local stereo control buttons so as to be able to receive voice commands and commands from the one or more local stereo control buttons in the first format and, in response to receiving the voice commands or commands in the first format, send output wireless control signals corresponding to the wireless remote control signals so as to control the operation of the replacement stereo such that either the voice commands or the local stereo control button commands can be used to control the replacement stereo via the interface device.

**Claim 9** has been amended to read as follows:

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the voice control interface device receives at least one command and outputs at least one wireless signal to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver corresponding to the at least one command.

**Claim 10** has been amended to read as follows:

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the voice control interface device receives a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement

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aftermarket stereo receiver and wherein the voice control interface produces a signal corresponding to the first wireless signal in response to a user speaking a first voice command or actuating a first local stereo control button.

**Claim 11** has been amended to read as follows:

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the voice control interface device includes a memory and is programmable so as to store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one command such that subsequent occurrence of the at least one command results in a corresponding wireless signal being sent to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

**Claim 13** has been amended to read as follows:

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the voice control interface device includes a wireless receiver and a wireless transmitter so that the voice control interface device can receive the first wireless signal from the handheld remote control and store a corresponding signal in the memory such that the voice control interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal so as to change the first function of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

**Claim 15** has been amended to read as follows:

15. A stereo system for a vehicle comprising:

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one or more local stereo control buttons originally mounted in a first location on the vehicle that is adapted to send local control signals in a first format to an original stereo receiver to control the operation of an original stereo receiver,

a replacement aftermarket stereo receiver lacking voice command capability and adapted to replace the original stereo receiver, wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is mounted in a first location on the vehicle and wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is responsive to at least one wireless remote control signal such that upon receipt of the at least one wireless remote control signal, the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver alters the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver; and

an aftermarket interface device, positioned within the vehicle and connected to the one or more local stereo control buttons that is responsive to at least one voice and one local stereo control button command signal from a person in the vehicle, wherein the aftermarket interface device wirelessly transmits a functional equivalent of the at least one wireless remote control signal to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver upon receiving the at least one command signal.

**Claim 19** has been amended to read as follows:

19. The stereo system of Claim 15, wherein the interface device is adapted to receive the at least one command signal and is further

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adapted to produce a wireless signal to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver corresponding to the at least one command signal.

**Claim 20** has been amended to read as follows:

20. The stereo system of Claim 15, wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is adapted to receive a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver and wherein the interface device produces the functional equivalent remote control signal to correspond to the first wireless signal in response to the at least one command signal.

**Claim 21** has been amended to read as follows:

21. The stereo system of Claim 20, wherein the interface device includes a memory and is programmable such that the interface device can sequentially store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one remote control signal such that subsequent reception of the command signal results in a corresponding wireless signal being transmitted to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

**Claim 23** has been amended to read as follows:

23. The stereo system of Claim 22, wherein the interface device includes a wireless receiver and a wireless transmitter so that the interface device can receive the first wireless signal from the



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handheld remote control and store a corresponding signal in the memory such that the interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal so as to change the first function of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-15 and 18-23 are allowed. For the purpose of issue, these claims have been respectively renumbered 1-15 and 16-21, respectively.

***Drawings***

3. In order to avoid abandonment, the drawing informalities noted in the paper mailed on 11/23/04, Form PTO-948, must now be corrected. Correction can only be effected in the manner set forth in the above noted paper.

***Terminal Disclaimer***

4. The terminal disclaimer filed on 9/20/2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory period of any patent issuing from U.S. Patent application 09/442627 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

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**Conclusion**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Meitner (USPN 5790481) discloses a system for utilizing factory installed controls in an automobile system to control an aftermarket device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Graham whose telephone number is 571-272-7517. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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October 3, 2005

  
VIVIAN CHIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Application/Control Number: 09/552,981

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*Appendix of Claims Showing Examiner's Amendment*

The following is a listing of the amended claims, as were presented in the examiner's amendment.

1. A voice control interface device adapted to be installed in a vehicle as an aftermarket product hardwire connected to at least one or more local stereo control buttons that receives at least one voice command and at least one command from one or more local stereo control buttons positioned within the vehicle in a first format and produces at least one wireless output signal to a replacement aftermarket stereo receiving lacking voice command capability and installed in the vehicle to replace an originally installed stereo receiver so that either of the at least one voice command or the local stereo control button command can be used to control the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver, and wherein the one or more local stereo control buttons were originally installed in the vehicle to control the originally installed stereo receiver that was responsive to signals in the first format.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the voice control interface device outputs at least one wireless signal to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver corresponding to the at least one voice command or the local stereo control button command.

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3. The device of Claim 2, wherein the voice control interface device receives a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver and wherein the voice control interface produces a signal corresponding to the first wireless signal in response to a user speaking a first voice command or input of the one or more local stereo control button commands.

4. The device of Claim 3, wherein the voice control interface device includes a memory and is programmable so as to store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one voice command and local stereo control button command such that subsequent speaking of the at least one voice command or input of the one or more local stereo control button commands results in the corresponding wireless signal being sent to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the voice control interface device includes a wireless receiver and a wireless transmitter so that the voice control interface device can receive the first wireless signal from the handheld remote control and store a corresponding signal in the memory such that the voice control interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal so as to change the first function of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

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8. A stereo system for a vehicle ~~having one or more local stereo control buttons, the stereo system comprising:~~

one or more local stereo control buttons originally mounted in a first location on the vehicle that is adapted to send local control signals in a first format to an original stereo receiver to control the operation of an original stereo receiver,

a replacement aftermarket stereo receiver lacking voice control capability and adapted to replace ~~an~~ the original stereo receiver, wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is mounted in a first location on the vehicle and wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is adapted to receive wireless remote control signals to control the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver; and

an aftermarket interface device that is adapted to be positioned within the vehicle connected to the one or more local stereo control buttons so as to be able to receive voice commands and commands from the one or more local stereo control buttons in ~~a~~ the first format and, in response to receiving the voice commands or commands in the first format, send output wireless control signals corresponding to the wireless remote control signals so as to control the operation of the replacement stereo such that either the voice commands or the local stereo control button commands can be used to control the replacement stereo via the interface device.

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9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the voice control interface device receives at least one command and outputs at least one wireless signal to the a replacement aftermarket stereo receiver corresponding to the at least one command.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the voice control interface device receives a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver and wherein the voice control interface produces a signal corresponding to the first wireless signal in response to a user speaking a first voice command or actuating a first local stereo control button.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the voice control interface device includes a memory and is programmable so as to store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one command such that subsequent occurrence of the at least one command results in a corresponding wireless signal being sent to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the voice control interface device includes a wireless receiver and a wireless transmitter so that the voice control interface device can receive the first wireless signal from the handheld remote control and store a corresponding

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signal in the memory such that the voice control interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal so as to change the first function of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

15. A stereo system for a vehicle ~~having one or more local stereo control buttons, the stereo system comprising:~~

one or more local stereo control buttons originally mounted in a first location on the vehicle that is adapted to send local control signals in a first format to an original stereo receiver to control the operation of an original stereo receiver,

a replacement aftermarket stereo receiver lacking voice command capability and adapted to replace ~~an~~ the original stereo receiver, wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is mounted in a first location on the vehicle and wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is responsive to at least one wireless remote control signal such that upon receipt of the at least one wireless remote control signal, the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver alters the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver; and an aftermarket interface device, positioned within the vehicle and connected to the one or more local stereo control buttons that is responsive to at least one voice and one local stereo control button command signal from a person in the vehicle, wherein the aftermarket interface device wirelessly transmits a functional equivalent of the



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at least one wireless remote control signal to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver upon receiving the at least one command signal.

19. The stereo system of Claim 15, wherein the interface device is adapted to receive the at least one command signal and is further adapted to produce a wireless signal to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver corresponding to the at least one command signal.

20. The stereo system of Claim 15, wherein the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver is adapted to receive a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver and wherein the interface device produces the functional equivalent remote control signal to correspond to the first wireless signal in response to the at least one command signal.

21. The stereo system of Claim 20, wherein the interface device includes a memory and is programmable such that the interface device can sequentially store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one remote control signal such that subsequent reception of the command signal results in a corresponding wireless signal being transmitted to the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.

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23. The stereo system of Claim 22, wherein the interface device includes a wireless receiver and a wireless transmitter so that the interface device can receive the first wireless signal from the handheld remote control and store a corresponding signal in the memory such that the interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal so as to change the first function of the replacement aftermarket stereo receiver.